what their pension looked like, because they believed that they were going to be able to keep their job.

And that wasn't true.

So again, Madam Speaker, we will come back again until somebody, somebody helps us solve the game of Clue. Who took an ax in the Senate leader's office, the Speaker's office, the conference room, who took the ax to 9,000 hard-working Americans in this country, their plants and the communities that depend upon those tax revenues for police protection, fire protection, and schools? Who took the ax and ended those jobs?

And again, President Bush was meant in jest. I don't think President Obama did this. But others on this board, I would posit, had to know, had to know prior to the President's announcement that this was going to happen. And I just don't think that that is right in the United States of America.

Likewise, the 203,000 people that are about to be out of work at the dealerships across this country, again, some of these dealers, these automobile dealers, some of them paid upwards of $2 million to have a Chrysler franchise or a General Motors franchise. And it really boggles my mind that in the United States of America if you are a car company you can come in and say, I don't want to honor these franchise agreements.

And the news just last week was the lawyers for Chrysler are arguing that this Federal bankruptcy should supersede State franchise law. And even though State franchise law says, if you sold this guy a franchise for $2 million, he is entitled to keep it, they want to terminate him and just say, you got no business.

Again, Madam Speaker, I don't know how it goes in your hometown, but in my hometown, the car dealers have been there, in some instances, for generations. They support the little league teams, the bowling teams, and the Chamber of Commerce. A lot of the lifeblood of our community is supported by auto dealers. So I know that the President didn't mean that this set of conditions, this set of circumstances, wasn't going to disrupt people's lives and wasn't going to impact negatively on communities all across this country. And I am baffled that in the United States of America, if you, Madam Speaker, took $2 million, and I wish I had $2 million, but if you took $2 million and bought something, that the government could come in and just say, guess what? You don't own it anymore. And do you know those 60 people that work for you, who in some instances have worked for you 20, 30 years? They are out of work. They are out of work.

So Madam Speaker, we will attempt to unravel this mystery. I appreciate very much the time. And I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to determine how this could happen in the United States of America.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JOHN A. BOEHNER, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 28, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Pursuant to The National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 955(b) note), I am pleased to re-appoint the Honorable Pat Tiberi of Ohio to the National Council on the Arts.

Mr. Tiberi has expressed interest in serving in this capacity and I am pleased to fulfill his request.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Republican Leader.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HOUSE COMMISSION ON CONGRESSIONAL MAILING STANDARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 501(b), and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards:

Mrs. DAVIS, California, Chairman
Mr. SHERMAN, California
Ms. EDWARDS, Maryland

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group:

Mr. MCCAUL, Texas
Mr. DREIER, California
Mr. MACK, Florida
Mr. BILBRAY, California
Mr. NUNES, California

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS MESSAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, let me just signal that again tonight we come before this body as the Congressional Progressive Caucus with the Progressive Message.

The Progressive Message, this idea of coming before the American people, projecting a progressive message, so that the people of the United States can say, you know what, there are people in Congress today who are willing to stand up and say that ideas about generosity, of justice, of peace, of inclusion, of universal health care, of providing access for everyone, these are principles, there are people who are in that Congress who will stand up for these ideas, and that is the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

And we come and we talk about the Progressive Message where we talk about the importance of this message of saying we will remember great advances of our country of the past, like the civil rights movement, the women rights movement, the idea of coming together for Social Security, standing up for peace, getting us out of Vietnam, standing up against the rush to war in Iraq and Afghanistan. And today, that charge has not failed. That charge has not gone unnoticed, and we're here today to keep the call going.

And tonight for the Progressive Message, I'm really pleased to have join me a leader who never fails to stand up for the people, never shrinks from the call of the people, a progressive, dynamic leader who hails from the great city of Houston, the great State of Texas, none other than SHEILA JACKSON-LEE. I thank Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE for joining me tonight for the Progressive Message. Do you want to get us started a little bit as tonight we talk about health care?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me first of all thank the distinguished gentleman, Congressman ELLISON, for his leadership and to applaud the effort of, if you will, recording, reporting, enforcing, and educating individuals on the importance of a holistic approach to health care reform.

Certainly, I want to congratulate the Progressive Caucus, of which I'm a member and my distinguished colleague is, because we have been spending time, Madam Speaker, on working on these issues, constantly seeking to find common ground around a very important issue, and that is, of course, the public option.

Some of us are concerned and interested in single payer, and in our meetings that we have had, which is a number of legislative initiatives, one happens to be H.R. 676. But what we are speaking about is to keep all doors open, all voices open, because as you can see, the idea of coming together around fixing the health care system is going to ensure that we have the kind of baseline of service that will help all Americans.

And let me just make a point to my distinguished colleague. We were just in a hearing on the collapse or the bankruptcy of Chrysler and General Motors, and I call it a collapse, and I call it a crisis. And why? Because we're putting people out of work. Even with the bankruptcy structure they're closing dealerships. They are closing minority dealerships. They're laying people off work.